



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,499	02/12/2001	Seiji Kishimoto	P20588	8118

7055 7590 12/29/2003

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

NATNAEL, PAULOS M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/780,499

Applicant(s)

KISHIMOTO ET AL

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **1-5,7-10** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims **1-5, 7-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,140 in view of Yamashita et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,808,693.

Considering claim **1 (as amended)**, Cooper et al. discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a plurality of video output sources that output a sync signal and video signal corresponding to said sync signal, is met by Video Inputs #1-#4 from Video cameras 301-304, FIG.3; (see col. 2, lines 62 through col. 3, line 31)

b) a selector that selects the changeover target video output source indicated by a changeover instruction from said plurality of video output sources, is met by Video Switcher 220, FIG.3; (see col. 2, lines 62 through col. 3, line 31)

c) timing synchronizer that synchronizes a sync signal output by said target video output source with a sync signal output by a video output source to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

Except for;

d) the claimed controller that turns on power to said target video output source and that turns off the power to said video output source to be changed, based on the changeover instruction;

Regarding d), Cooper discloses video switcher control 200 fig.1 that controls the operation of the system. However, Cooper does not specifically disclose whether the controller is capable of turning on or off power to the individual video sources in order save power consumption.

Yamashita et al discloses a video display apparatus with power saving modes, wherein the video display apparatus is capable of receiving multiple video input signals and of reducing its power consumption when each of those signals becomes inactive. Power consumption is reduced by selecting from a number of power saving modes. (see abstract) Further, Yamashita et al discloses that saving power consumption based on the presence of horizontal and vertical sync signals is well known in the art. (col.2, lines 41-47)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Cooper by providing the power consumption reduction methods of Yamashita in order for the system to save power

when individual video sources are not active or not present at the input terminals of the apparatus so that cost is minimized.

Considering claim **2 (as amended)**, the video output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reset signal generator that generates a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the video output source to be changed based on the changeover instruction, wherein the timing synchronizer synchronizes a sync signal output by the target video output source with said reset signal, is met by the disclosure that "If the timing control of a camera capable of external synchronization exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera. For example, the cameras 301, 302, 303, and 304 will compare the horizontal drive pulse 710 of the horizontal drive signal 700 with the horizontal synchronization pulse 540 of the video signal 500 for the particular camera to determine if the horizontal counter of the timing control in the particular camera must be reset." (col. 3, lines 38-47, see also line 48 through col. 4, line 5)

Considering claim **3(as amended)**, the video output apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the timing synchronizer outputs the reset signal received from the reset signal generator to the target video output source one of at a reset signal generator timing at which said reset signal generator generates a reset signal or at a change timing that arrives every predetermined number of clock pulses with respect to said reset signal generating timing.

Regarding claim 3, see rejection of claim 2;

Considering claim 4 (**as amended**), the video output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the target video output source comprises a counter that outputs a sync signal when a counted number of reference clock pulses reaches a predetermined number, is met by the disclosure "If the timing control of a camera...exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera." (col. 3, lines 40-42)

Considering claim 5 (**as amended**), the video output apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the counter resets an already counted number of reference clock pulses upon reception of a reset signal from the timing synchronizer.

Regarding claim 5, see rejection of claim 4;

Considering claim 7(**as amended**), Cooper discloses all claimed subject matter, note;
a) a plurality of video output sources that output a sync signal and video signal corresponding to said sync signal, is met by Video inputs 1-4 from Video cameras 301-304, FIG.3;

b) a selector that selects the changeover target video output source indicated by a changeover instruction from said plurality of video output sources, is met by Video Switcher 220, FIG.3;

c) timing synchronizer that synchronizes a sync signal output by said target video output source with a sync signal output by said video output source to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

Except for;

d) the claimed controller that turns on power to said target video output source and that turns off the power to said video output source to be changed, based on the changeover instruction;

Regarding d), see rejection of claim 1(d).

Considering claim **8 (as amended)**, the communication terminal apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a) an image pickup that picks up an image pickup target as an image pickup signal is met by the Cameras 301-304, fig.2;

b) an image pickup video output source that outputs a sync signal and said image pickup signal, is also met by Cameras 301-304, fig.2;

Considering claim **9 (as amended)**,

b) synchronizing a sync signal output from said target signal source with a sync signal output from a signal source to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

c) selecting the changeover target signal source indicated by a changeover instruction, is met by camera control codes from timing control 210 to Video Switcher 220, fig. 3;

Except for;

a) turning on the power to a changeover target signal source based on a changeover instruction;

d) turning off the power to the signal source to be changed.

Regarding a) and d), see rejection of claim 1 (d).

Considering claim **10 (as amended)**, generating a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the signal source means to be changed, wherein the synchronizing the sync signal synchronizes a sync signal of the changeover target signal source with said reset signal.

Regarding claim **10**, see rejection of claim 2;

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Elberbaum, U.S. Pat. No. 5,579,060 discloses method and apparatus for remote synchronous switching of video transmitters.


Elberbaum, U.S. Pat. No. 5,335,014 discloses data transmitter for selectively transmitting data to receivers via transmission lines switched on or over in synchronization with an external synchronizing signal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (703) 305-0019. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am -3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

Paulos Natnael
December 22, 2003



PAULOS M. NATNAEL
PATENT EXAMINER